



Washington's

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

RTPO Focus

The WTP update is the product of a collaborative planning process that involved WSDOT and local, regional, Tribal, and other state entities. Throughout the update process, WSDOT worked with these partners to discuss and develop a policy approach to future transportation investments. This process unified the analyses of regional and Tribal partners into one statewide inventory of transportation needs. The coordination of regional, Tribal, and state plans has created a strong foundation for prioritization and decision-making.

Each region makes a unique contribution to the entire state transportation system. The WTP policy framework has been developed and used by the regions to identify their transportation needs. The Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) sections describe the needs and issues identified by the state's RTPOs.

I. Regional Transportation Planning Organizations

Each region of the state has distinct transportation needs that reflect its communities, environment, and economy. Therefore, transportation planning in Washington State is a joint, coordinated partnership between cities, counties, state, major employers, private industries, federal entities, and Tribal governments. There are two statutory requirements for this coordinated planning.

State law authorized RTPOs as part of the 1990 Growth Management Act. RTPOs create a formal mechanism for local governments and the state to coordinate transportation planning for regional transportation facilities. An RTPO is mandated to develop a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) based on the region's transportation strategy. The strategy identifies existing or planned transportation facilities, services, and programs, which should function as an integrated transportation system, including:

- Major roadways such as state highways and regional arterials;
- Transit and non-motorized services and facilities;
- Multimodal and intermodal facilities;
- Marine ports and airports;
- Railroads; and



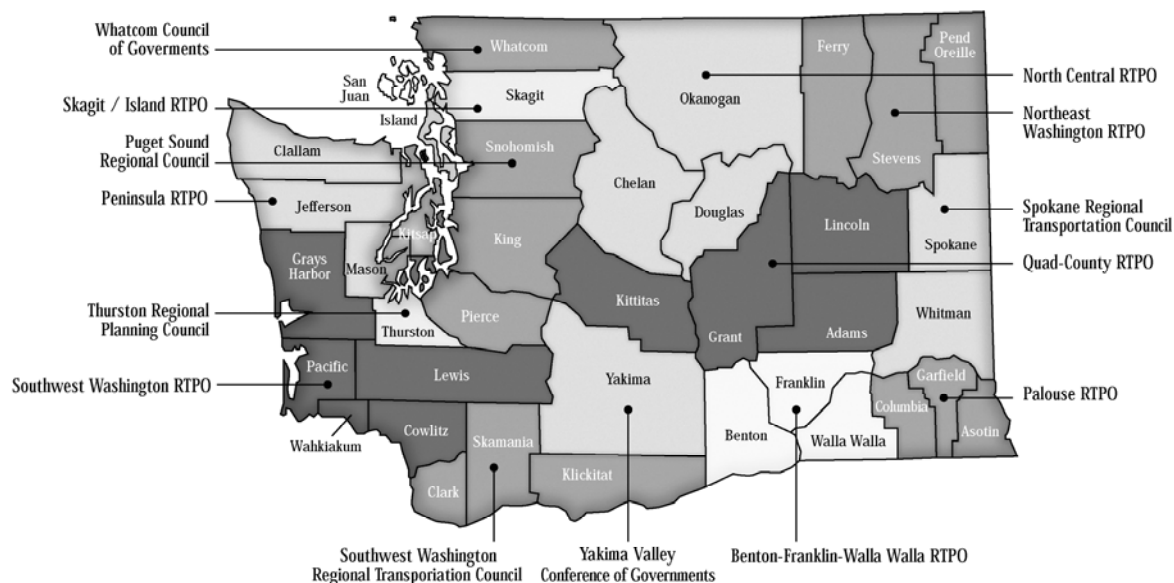
- Non-capital programs, including transportation demand management.

In the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, and the subsequent Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) of 1997, federal law authorized Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which are required in all urban areas with a population of more than 50,000. For areas with a population of 50,000 or more, the MPO and the RTPO must be the same organization. Although there are some differences, an MPO's responsibilities are very similar to those of the RTPO.

MPOs in areas with a population over 200,000 are designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). TMAs have additional responsibilities, due to their population size and the added complexities that are characteristic of larger urban areas. A map of the state's TMAs/MPOs/RTPOs follows.

Each of the following RTPO sections contain a brief description of the region followed by an examination of its major transportation facilities, demographics, freight movement, economic trends, and transportation priorities. These sections are designed to display the unique nature of each regional transportation area. Together these sections combine to present the overall character of the state's transportation concerns.

Transportation Planning Organizations of Washington



Benton–Franklin–Walla Walla (BFWW)

RTPO (Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties)
MPO (Benton-Franklin Council of Governments)

North Central RTPO (NCRTPO)

RTPO (Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties)

Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO)

RTPO (Ferry, Stevens & Pend Oreille Counties)

Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PalRTPO)

RTPO (Asotin, Columbia & Garfield Counties)

Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO)

RTPO (Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties)

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)

TMA/MPO/RTPO (King, Kitsap, Pierce & Snohomish Counties)

Quad-County Regional Transportation Planning Organization (QUADCO)

RTPO (Adams, Grant, Kittitas and Lincoln Counties)

San Juan County

Not associated with an RTPO

Skagit/Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization (S/I RTPO)

RTPO (Island & Skagit Counties)

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

TMA/MPO/RTPO (Clark, Klickitat & Skamania Counties)

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO)

RTPO (Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Wahkiakum, Counties)
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG)
MPO (Longview-Kelso, WA – Rainier, OR urban area)

Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC)

TMA/MPO/RTPO (Spokane & Whitman Counties)

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

MPO/RTPO (Thurston County)

Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG)

MPO/RTPO (Whatcom County)

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG)

MPO/RTPO (Yakima County)

